ST PETERSBURG
DOWNTOWN
including Old Northeast and Snell Isle
Newsletter
MAY / 2016 ISSUE 38

Honor Flights
A Tribute To Our Veterans

Hundreds of World War II veterans are living their final days in Pinellas County. These veteran are somewhere between 90 and 100 years of age, although some soldiers who enlisted underage, maybe slightly younger. Most veterans have never seen the Washington D.C. World War II Memorial built in their honor.

Honor Flight, a non-profit organization, was created to give veterans of World War II, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War to chance of go to D.C. to see memorials honoring their service. Two people are credited for the concept: Jeff Miller, of Henderson, North Carolina and retired Air Force Captain Earl Morse.

Morse worked with patients at the Department of Veterans Affairs in Springfield, OH. When he asked them about the memorial, completed in 2004, most said they knew of it but none of them had seen it." He realized due to their ages, most could never travel to see it. He offered to fly two veterans to Washington D.C. to see it and an idea was born.

Morse pitched the idea of flying more veterans to a local 300-member aero-club. Eleven pilots volunteered and formed a network. By May of 2005, when the first honor flight took place, six private planes flew twelve veterans to D.C. and back. By the end of the year, the program had allowed 137 veterans to see the memorial.

In late 2005, Jeff Miller, son of a World War II veteran and a charter member of the National World War II Memorial Foundation, was inspired by Morse's efforts and wanted to expand it. He contacted US Airways about chartering an airplane and HonorAir was born. Over three days in 2006, HonorAir flew more than 300 World War II veterans from Asheville to D.C. - free of charge. HonorAir provided everything—a doctor, several EMTs, guardians, tour buses, and food. When they arrived, they were greeted by thousands of supporters with music and marching bands.

Heroes Welcome a project of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #180 in Vienna, Va was created to organize welcoming ceremonies for the Honor flights at the three Washington area airports. Normally, active military members, school children, and bands playing patriotic music participate.

In June of 2014, the Honor Flight Act was introduced in Congress. It directs the Transportation Security Administration to establish a process for providing expedited and dignified passenger screening services for Honor Flight veterans.

Today, Honor Flights leave from 130 hubs in 44 states. As of 2015, they have flown 159,703 Veterans, 20,886 in last year alone. They have relied on 107,527 fly-along guardians since it started. There are 21,032 veterans on the standby list. (20% are from World War II, 43% Korea, 36% Vietnam and others.). 2015 saw the first all-female Honor Flight with 140 female veterans on board.

Story by Bob Griffin, Publisher

continued inside

Or Current Resident

This newsletter is published by GRIFFIN PRODUCTIONS, Inc. and is mailed to many occupied residences in Downtown St. Petersburg's zip code 33701 and 33704. We are not associated with the City of St. Petersburg.

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ST. PETERSBURG DOWNTOWN NEWSLETTER

Inside, you will find articles and local information about the nearby area. We want it to be a Neighborhood Newsletter primarily about your neighborhood - Downtown, Snell Isle and Old Northeast. That is why when you have news or events, contact us.

This newsletter is printed every other month and mailed to every occupied house, business & PO Box in the area.

We hope you enjoy our newsletters. We want your news and input. Did you like this issue? What suggestions do you have for future articles? Call or email us your comments, or take our survey at beachnewsletters.com.

Do you need another copy? Ask for them at the local UPS Stores at 2nd St. and 2nd Ave South or 38th Avenue North next to Publix.

Thank you for reading,

Bob & Becky Griffin, 727-517-1997
bob@griffindirectories.com

SEE YOU AGAIN IN JULY!

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www.stpete.org

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POLICE TIP VOICE LINE. . . . 892-5000

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Michael Gulley 244-8374
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Meeting: 3rd Wed of each month (8AM)
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Dwight.Dudley@MyFloridaHouse.gov
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AREA UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE:
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David Jolly 727-392-4100
9210 113th St, Seminole, Fl 33772
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ST. PETERSBURG OPERA . . . 823-2040
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SUNKEN GARDENS. 551-3100
CHIHULY COLLECTION 822-7872
THE COLISEUM 892-5202
TROPICANA FIELD 825-3137

WEAR ORANGE DAY

National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Moms Demand Action an organization supporting Gun Sense in America and Citizens for Responsible Gun Laws of Pinellas are sponsoring a "Gun Violence Awareness Day", June 2, 2016. In support, they are encouraging everyone to wear orange that day. The color orange symbolizes the value of human life. Hunters wear orange in the woods to protect themselves and others.

June 2 would be the 19th birthday of Hadiyah Pendleton but at age 15, shortly after marching in the Presidential Inaugural Parade in 2012, she was struck down by a bullet. Her friends marched for her in 2013, wearing orange in her honor. It has grown into a national movement – and orange is becoming the symbol of gun safety. This day is to remind the nation over 30,000 people each year are killed due of gun violence. The local Moms Demand Action will have a table that day at the Largo Public Library from 10 am to 4 pm. with more information about what you can do to reduce gun violence. They will be wearing orange.

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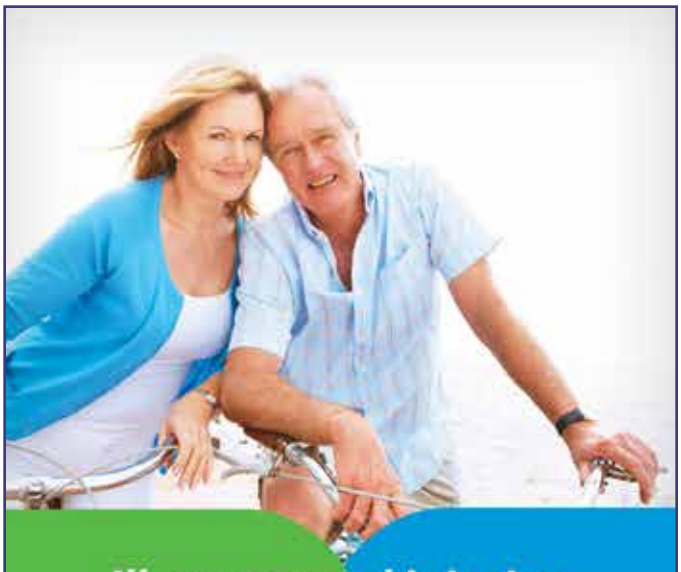

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For hours and information, visit
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Bayfront Health
St. Petersburg

Did You Know

PLAY TENNIS? A group of women called the "Racquettes on the Court" play tennis on Friday mornings at 8:30am at the St. Petersburg Tennis Center at 650 18th Avenue S. They would love to have more players for their doubles game. Beginners are welcome. There is a court fee of $10 per person. Call Norah at 252-8054 or Mary 258-4066 if you would like to play.

ANNUAL POLICE MEMORIAL SERVICE The St. Petersburg Police Department's Annual Memorial Service was held this month at the Heroes of St. Petersburg Police Law Enforcement Memorial at Demens Landing Park in downtown St. Petersburg. The service commemorated police officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion have rendered a dedicated service to their community. The engraved ceremonial bell, which is kept at the police station during the year, was brought to the site and rung once for each fallen officer as their name was read. While the solid brass, 24-pound bell's clear tone rang out in remembrance for the fifteen fallen officers of the St. Petersburg Police Department, it also honored all officers that have lost their lives, or have become disabled in the performance of their duties.

PLASTIC TO ENERGY Pinellas County has one of the best waste to energy plants in the state. One thing they burn is plastic grocery bags collected at area grocery stores. When burned, one plastic bag will generate enough power to light a 60-watt bulb for 20 minutes, or a 15-watt LED bulb for over an hour. When you bring the bags back to your grocery store for recycling though, remove your receipts. If there is even one paper receipt, the store pays a huge fine! And don't worry, when you see smoke at the Roosevelt and I-275 plant, it is really pure water vapor. You can tour the plant any day and they have a direct recycling re-use store where anything you find you can keep - and it's free.

JANNUS LIVE APP Find out what is happening at Jannus Live with their APP. Text "LIVE" to 27126 and you will be prompted how to download it.

FISHING TOURNAMENT The Clearwater Yacht Club is holding their Inaugural Fishing Tournament on June 11th. This 50/50 tournament is open to Yacht Club members and to the public. The cost to participate is $15 per fisherman. You can bring your own boat or ride along with someone else. Fisherman may keep their fish, or donate them to the Club for the Fish Fry following the tournament. For information, email thomasjmeyer64@gmail.com.

and More...

OUR ARBORETUM Old Northeast is home to the Gizella Kopsick Palm and Cycad Arboretum. It is a large cluster of palm trees located at North Shore Dr. & 11th Ave NE. The two-acre park was once a city miniature golf course. A generous gift from Miss Gizella Kopsick, a long-time palm admirer, started the plantings and the park opened in 1976. It is supervised by the City Beautiful Commission in cooperation with the St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department. There are now over 500 palms and numerous cycads (a palm-like tropical plant bearing large cones) planted along a winding brick walkway. In 2014, the city purchased an entire collection of cycads from a private Tampa Collection which contained some of the rarest specimens in North America. It is open daily 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Group tours can be arranged by calling 893-7441.

MARKET MOVES FOR THE SUMMER The Saturday Morning Market moves to Williams Park on June 4. They do this every year during the summer due to the heat of the parking lot and because the Rowdies start playing Saturday games. They return to the Al Lang parking lot September 3.

BEACH 5K RUNS RELOCATED The popular Summer Sunset Runs, previously held on Clearwater Beach near Pier 60, have been moved to the Sand Key Park across the bridge. There are four races this year - May 20, June 3, July 1 and July 15. Kids races start at 6:45pm and the 5K starts at 7pm. Get more information, or register at www.WCYRC.com.

KEEP THEM OUT OF OUR WATER Pharmaceuticals, including antibiotics, hormones, pain medications, antidepressants, and even illegal drugs are being found in our drinking water and waterways. For years, we were told to flush unused medication down the sink or toilet. Do NOT do this. Instead remove them from their original containers, crush them, place them in a sealable bag or container and add an undesirable substance, such as coffee grounds, dirt or kitty litter to make it less appealing to children and pets and unrecognizable to people who may go through the trash seeking drugs. If you prefer, Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Operation Medicine Cabinet allows you to drop off expired or unused medications during business hours at The Sheriff's Admin Building at 10750 Ulmerton Rd. Largo or North District Office at 737 Louden Ave. Dunedin.

OUR NEXT ISSUE IS IN JULY Read this issue, as well as others, online at BeachNewsletters.com.

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Internal Medicine
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Lisa Ball, D.O.
Family Medicine
603 7th St. South, Suite 400

Karen Joseph, M.D.
Family Medicine
603 7th St. South, Suite 400

Daniel Eckstein, M.D.
Family Medicine
603 7th St. South, Suite 400

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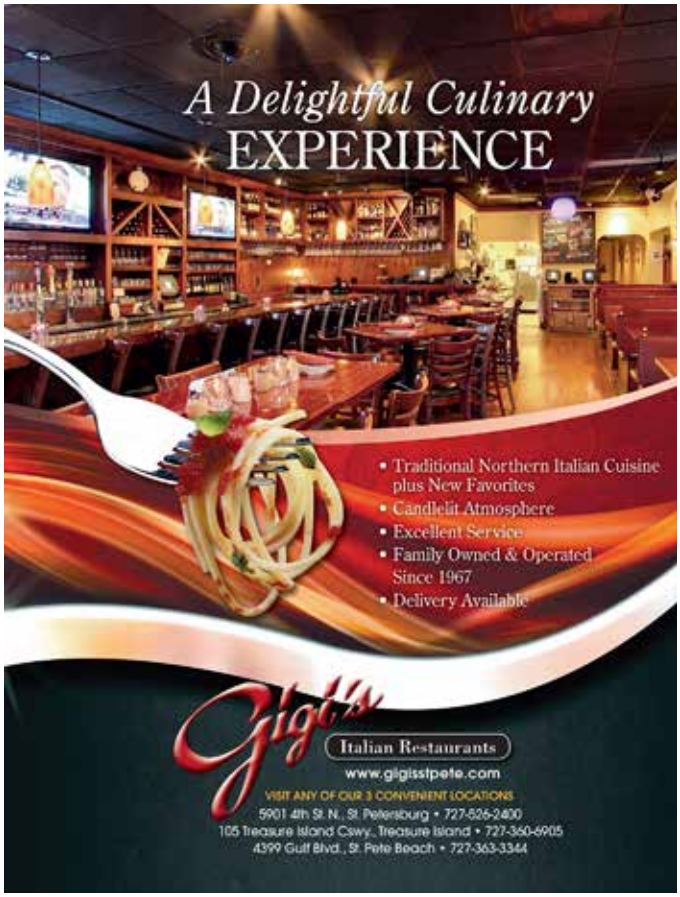

HONOR FLIGHTS, continued

Donations are the heart of the organization and make it possible for more of our aging veterans to make a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the memorials in D.C. The cost of each flight is between $50,000-$60,000, which includes airfare, land transportation, food, beverages, wheel-chair rentals and other support materials, is covered by donations. The Honor Flights are completely free to selected Veterans. In addition, Honor Flight always needs volunteers to escort veterans, push wheelchairs, and show them around D.C. Volunteers pay their own expenses (about $400) or find sponsors.

Both Miller and Morse were awarded the Presidential Medal of Honor in 2008 for their work in the program.

The Pinellas chapter of the Honor Flight Network, which started in 2011, is Honor Flight of West Central Florida. It is an official Regional Hub of the national Honor Flight Network. To date, they have taken 1,884 veterans to Washington, D.C. The local president is Beverly Frey. Volunteer Coordinator is Tina Provo.

Honor Flight of West Central Florida tries to coordinate four trips a year. The next one leaves Clearwater / St. Pete (PIE) airport at 4 am Tuesday, June 7 and returns that same night at 8:30 pm. This is the 26th Pinellas County mission and will have 78 veterans onboard. Volunteer are encouraged to participate in their welcome home party that evening.

Linda DeWitt flew on an Honor Flight April 26th as a volunteer escort for Richard Mayfield age 89. They met for the first time at the flight orientation. Here is her experience.

We all arrived at the airport at 3:30 am and were greeted by firetrucks on the runway squirting water over the plane as a salute to the veterans. After a two-hour flight, we arrived in Baltimore to another set of firetrucks greeting us. Three red, white and blue buses were loaded with veterans, volunteers, and wheelchairs for the hour drive to Washington DC. Our first stop was the Air Force Monument.

After lunch, we moved on to the WW II Monument. It resembled the Colosseum and had a fountain in the middle with famous sayings. We got a group photo of all 76 veterans with the memorial. The next stops were the Lincoln, Korean and Vietnam Wall two blocks around the corner.

We drove around a portion of Arlington cemetery and the Iwo Jima statue, then drove an hour back to Baltimore. During the drive, the veterans told stories and sang old military songs. The driver was full of history and stories and made the drive very interesting.

During the 2-hour flight home, there was a mail call with each veteran receiving an envelope of 25 to 30 letters from children's groups, politicians, and church groups. The writers said how they appreciated their service; it was very emotional for some. When we landed, the families of each veteran, military personnel, therapy dogs, church groups, biker groups, Rotary members - at least 1200 people - were lined up with a band to shake their hands. It was over 2 city blocks long and included Generals, Lieutenants, and local politicians. It was a breathtaking welcome home from a trip of a lifetime!

In 2002, there were almost 5 million World War II veterans still alive; today, there are 670,000, With an estimated 32,000 War-era Veterans living in the our area. Honor Flight's mission is to help each of them to see their memorial. If you or someone you know is a veteran, please contact Honor Flights. Mark Welsh, the Pinellas Coordinator, can be reached at 727-204-1754 or at info@HonorFlightWCF.org. Find more information at www.HonorFlightsWCF.org or HonorFlight.org.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

MAY

American Stage's Spamalot Ends 15
Stone Crab Season Ends 15
Police Memorial Demen's Landing 17
Main Street Shop Hop 18
Music & Movies In Straub Park 19
Wellness Fair Sunshine Center 20
Food Truck Rally Port Of St. Pete 20
Night At Brewseum Great Explorations 20
Mayor's Youth Showcase Mahaffey 20
Rowdies First Home Game 21
Armed Forces Day 21
Florida Orchestra Season Finale 21
Cultural Diversity Festival 21
Safe Boating Week 23-29
Historic Downtown Walking Tour 25
Movie In The Park Final Movie 26
Corvette Show Straub Park 28
97X Backyard BBQ 28
Morning Market Leaves Al Lang 28
City Pools Open 28
Memorial Day Public Schools Closed 30
Treasures Of The Deep Ends 31

JUNE

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Cuba: Exhibit SPMOH 1-30
Tale Of Two Cities American Stage 1-26
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St. Pete Opera La Boheme Palladium 3
Pancake BreakfastAlbert Whitted 4
Williams Park Summer Market Opens 4
Rowdies Home Game 4
St. Pete Opera La Boheme Palladium 5
Music On Main Street 6-12
St. Pete Opera La Boheme Palladium 7
Last Day Public School 7
Second Saturday Art Walk 11
Caribbean Carnival 11
Young Eagles Day Airport 11
Disney And Dali Closes 12
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Flag Day 14
Historic Kenwood Walking Tour 15
Crab And Music Festival 16
Food Truck Rally Port Of St. Pete 17
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Father's Day 19
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Grouper Week Begins 27
Gay Pride Grand Central 24-26
Gay Pride Parade Grand Central 25
Historic Downtown Walking Tour 29

JULY

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Grouper Week Area Restaurants 1-3
St. Pete Opera South Pacific Paladium 1
Horst Fashion & Surrealism at Dali 2-30
Rowdies Home Game 2
St. Pete Opera South Pacific Paladium 3
Independence Day 4
Fire Works Waterfront 4
St. Pete Opera South Pacific Paladium 5
St. Pete Opera South Pacific Paladium 9-10
Downtown Sidewalk Sunrise Sale 14
Food Truck Rally Port Of St. Pete 15
Second Saturday Art Walk 16
Rays Concert Series Bret Michaels 16
Extreme Mud WarsSpa Beach 16-17
Cool Art Show 16-17
Tampa Bay Home Show 22-24
Parents Day 24
Rays Concert Series Hunter Hayes 30

AUGUST

Little League Fall Ball Sign Up
First Friday 5
Sales Tax Free Shopping Days 5-7
Tampa Bay Rowdies Home Game 6
Trim Notices Mailed 8
Public School Open 10
Second Saturday Art Walk 13
Tampa Bay Rowdies Home Game 20
Williams Park Market Closes 27
Primary Elections 30

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CHILDREN'S DREAM FUND CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

Fransie Geringer

In 1981, a story went out over the AP wires that 8-year old Fransie Geringer of South Africa, who suffered from the aging disease progeria, dreamed of meeting his hero Pinocchio. The Sunshine City Jaycees of St. Petersburg responded by raising the money to bring Fransie and his family to Florida. After the visit, which included a trip to Disney World to see Pinocchio, excess funds from the trip were offered to Fransie's family. However, it was their wish that the funds be used to help other children. Some members of the Jaycees, including former Mayor Rick Baker, decided to form a non-profit organization, the Suncoast Children's Dream Fund. Baker remembers, "All Children's Hospital (now part of John's Hopkins) was in St. Petersburg, so we were uniquely aware of the difficult times that many seriously ill children faced on a daily basis. The idea was to use the money left over from Fransie's effort, along with other money raised, to provide some of those children with a few great days. We got to help a child, and his or her family, experience some of the best moments of their lives."

In celebrating its 20th year of making dreams come true, the Suncoast Children's Dream Fund changed its name to Children's Dream Fund to reflect the organization's growth and scope. The organization serves children living throughout West Central Florida. Referrals are received from area hospitals including Johns Hopkins All Children's, St. Joseph's Children's, Tampa General Hospital, and the Sabal Palms Children's Center.

The Children's Dream Fund has fulfilled the dreams of over 2,000 children ages 3-18 who have been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. A child does not have to be terminally ill to qualify for a dream, nor is a dream the child's "last wish." The types of dreams vary greatly. They may involve meeting a celebrity, a trip, a gift such as a computer or playground, or the most-requested dream, a week at the Give Kids the World Village in Kissimmee. The Dream Fund makes memories for children that last a lifetime. To quote the mother of Savannah, 13, who has cancer and went on her dream to Hawaii, "We are forever thankful to the Dream Fund for giving Savannah and our family a chance to "breathe." She laughed, smiled and even cried tears of joy. We never thought we'd see her that happy ever again."

The most recent dream recipient Marissa meets Taylor Swift.

The Children's Dream Fund's office is in the Priatek Plaza in downtown St. Petersburg. A volunteer board of directors governs the organization and advocates for it in the community. It is an independent wish-granting organization, and not affiliated with a national group. The Dream Fund undertakes no telemarketing or phone solicitation. In 2015, over 84% of every dollar raised went directly to program expenses, and the Dream Fund is consistently awarded a Four Star rating from Charity Navigator. To learn more, go to www.childrensdreamfund.org.

SAFEGUARD YOUR HOME AND PROTECT YOUR ASSETS

Your home is your castle – your resting place and your safe zone. As hurricane season kicks off, it would be smart to consider what you can do now for protection against such a violent weather event. One of the best places to start is to protect all the windows and doors because as building science has proven… "a breach in an exterior opening allows the storms low pressure to immediately rush in which causes roofs to blow off and other resulting destruction.

There are two simple options for window and door protection; Impact Glazing or Protective Coverings. If your windows and doors (including entry, sliding glass, and French) are in good shape then consider one of the approved coverings such as panels or fabric, accordion shutters, or roll down shutters. Prices will vary.

If your windows are older and inefficient, you should consider Impact glass technology. Not only do the new impact resistant window systems offer maximum hurricane security (no need for shutters), you also benefit from intruder protection, noise reduction, best energy efficiency, and a beautiful updated look to your home.

Afford yourself "Peace of Mind" in any weather. Do your homework now as hurricane protection, like insurance, needs to be in place before the catastrophe arrives.

Who can offer expert honest advice on what solution would be best for your home? A good starting point is contacting Stormfitter Corporation. They are a family owned and operated local company with possibly more experience than any other company in Tampa Bay. With a longstanding 36 year trustworthy reputation and over 10,000 local references, you can be sure they are looking out for your best interests.

For more information contact Stormfitters Corp. at 544-0575 or stormfitters@gmail.com or visit the showroom at 2501 Anvil Street North, St.Pete, 33710

MUSIC ON THE WEST END

Join St. Pete's three Florida Main Street Districts – Deuces Live, EDGE, and Grand Central – for a week-long celebration of live music. Over two dozen venues will be hosting live music throughout the week of June 6th-12th, from jazz to zydeco to blues and rock! For list of participating venues and performers, see "St. Pete Main Streets" on Facebook, or go to edgedistrict.org/events.html.

Art News

FLORIDA CRAFTART **727-821.7391**
501 Central Ave. FloridaCraftArt.com
Top Shelf: A Florida CraftArt Members' Exhibition, through June 11.

This exhibition shines a light on the incredible talents of the fine craft artists of Florida. Entries range from jewelry to sculpture, beading to furniture and so much more. Entries are from artists throughout the state, from as far away as West Palm Beach and St. Augustine to those from surrounding counties.

THE DALI MUSEUM **727-823.3767**
One Dali Blvd thedali.org
This summer, The Dali Museum will present an alluring exhibition of the work of Horst P. Horst (1906-1999), who ranked alongside Irving Penn and Richard Avedon as one of the last century's leading photographers. In an extraordinary sixty-year career, Horst's photographs graced the pages of Vogue and House and Garden and he became renowned as a master of expressive lighting and atmospheric illusion.

In the early 1930s Horst moved to Paris – the heart of the creative avant-garde – and befriended designers and artists like Coco Chanel, Elsa Schiaparelli and Salvador Dali. Horst's career spanned the opulence of Parisian pre-war haute couture and the rise of ready-to-wear fashions in Post-war America. Not confined to fashion, Horst excelled at portraiture, nude studies, interiors and still life photography, drawing from a wide range of sources from ancient Greek and Roman sculpture to surrealist discourse.

SECOND SATURDAY ARTWALK **StPeteArtsAlliance.org**
Meet the artists and gallery owners during this casual, festive evening as over 40 studios and galleries in the Central Arts District, Waterfront Arts District, EDGE District, Grand Central District and the Warehouse Arts District come together as one destination. It is the second Saturday of the month from 5-9 pm. Download the map and list of participants to plan your art evening.

CRAFTYFEST **727-324-3878**
2030 Central Avenue ArtPoolRules.com
This monthly market includes local arts, Etsy crafters, vintage and retro goods, jewelry and plants. It is held Saturday and Sunday at the Art Pool Gallery

4TH ANNUAL ART AND ALE **727-595-4540**
May 21st from 6 -9 PM, this will be at the Duncan McClellan Glass Studio. Proceeds of the event will benefit Rotary art and educational projects as well as the DMG School Project and Creative Clay Cultural Art Center. The $50 ticket entitles you to an evening of food supplied by Da Sesto Italiano Ristorante, craft beers from Barley Mow and Green Bench, wine from Mascarelli Wine Distributors, and desserts from Astroria Pastry Shop, live music, a silent auction, and live glass blowing exhibitions. There will also be a sale of original, small art created by local artists to fund the John J. Todia Scholarship Fund for art and music majors. Only 200 tickets will be sold. Visit IRBRotary.org or ArtandAle.org.

TWO NEW MUSEUM PROJECTS A western & wildlife art museum is being developed by Tom James at 100 Central Ave. The Museum of American Arts and Crafts Movement is being built on 4th Ave. between 3rd and 4th St. by Rudy Ciccarello. When both are complete downtown will have seven museums within walking distance.

MOREAN ARTS CENTER FOR CLAY **727-821-7162**
420 22nd Street S. MoreanArtsCenter.org
The Historic Train Station, in St. Petersburg's Warehouse Arts District has become one of the largest working potteries in the Southeast U.S with a goal of promoting and enhancing the education of contemporary and historic ceramics. The Morean Art Center for Clay in the Train Station, offers education, studio space, and gallery sales in one building. This seamless access to clay services is a unique experience offered in few locations in the country. They offer high-quality classes with professional teaching artists from the local community and MCC Artists-in-Residence participants from around the country. Classes and workshops are designed with all skill levels in mind. The Center for Clay is a haven for all pottery enthusiasts. Collectors, visitors and artists alike will be amazed at the variety of high quality clay work available for purchase.

The Historic Train Station is available to rent for a special event, a meeting or just a fun night with your friends.

SPF16 CELEBRATES THE ARTS

Celebrating St. Petersburg's well known reputation as a leading arts and cultural destination, the Suncoasters of St. Petersburg will again present the St. Petersburg Festival, SPF16, a September celebration of the arts.

The Suncoasters of St. Petersburg are a civic organization comprised of nearly 200 business leaders who donate their time and resources to produce events that celebrate St. Petersburg and are enjoyed by the total community.

SPF16 features events and activities produced by local and national artists, arts organizations and arts-related businesses in and around the City's unique arts districts. SPF16 will again kick off with the Shine Mural Festival, followed by weekly spotlights on all the arts, including fine arts, performing arts, and a family arts festival in conjunction with the Central Ave Solstice Festival. SPF16 will conclude with the grand opening of the Chihuly Exhibit at its new location on October 1.

Scott Brainard, Co-Chair of the Suncoaster's Festival Committee states, "We celebrate the arts and we encourage the business community to embrace SPF16 and engage the arts in their day-to-day businesses."

"This is an opportunity for the entire city's arts and cultural scene to shine for residents, tourists and the travel industry as a whole. It is a great way to bring new visitors to the city and a great way to highlight our artists and arts organizations to prospective visitors, media and residents" states Wayne Atherholt, director of the Office of Cultural Affairs.

John Collins Executive Director of the Arts Alliance adds, "We ask our arts and cultural organizations that are producing programs in September to contact us now. We will see how the events fit the festival's schedule of fine arts, performing arts and family festival events."

SPF16 is presented by the Suncoasters of St. Petersburg, produced by the St. Petersburg Arts Alliance with support from the City of St. Petersburg Office of Cultural Affairs. For more information visit the Suncoasters website, suncoasters-stpete.com.

BROCANTE VINTAGE MARKET 2200 Second Ave. S.
This monthly weekend market features vintage finds.

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AREA SUMMER CAMPS

THE CITY - St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation offers summer camp for students entering grades 1 through 9, at 11 recreation centers. Camp is Monday through Friday from June 13 until August 5, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, with extended hours available. Youth enjoy a choice of safe, fun and educational indoor and outdoor rotating activities, special events, field trips, crafts, sports, and swimming. The cost is as low as $196 based on fee assistance for residents. A Limited number of grant spots are available. Free breakfast and lunch is served on-site for all children 18 and under. Call 727-893-7441 or visit www.stpeteparksrec.org/camps.

ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE Programs include: Operation Graduate that provides at-risk middle and high school students with educational opportunities, a one week High-Tech Robotics Summer Camp, a four-week STEMTEC program for students ages 14-17, and a Youth Development Program for low-income, academically-talented youth ages 14-15. Visit SPCollege.edu/summerprograms.

DALI MUSEUM JUNIOR DOCENT PROGRAM - This one-week Program, for children grades 3-5 encourages students to express their ideas about Dali's art while gaining knowledge about Dali. Students build a foundation in art by learning to look and talk about art. It builds self-esteem and enhances speaking skills. There are 4 sessions from June 13 to July 29. Classes are limited to 20 students and cost $200 for members and $250 for non-members. Call Bethany Mead, 623-4730 or visit www.TheDali.org for information.

MOREAN ARTS CENTER - Enjoy a variety of Summer Camps for a variety of ages. They offer programs in art, clay, and glass. Learn more at MoreanArtsCenter.org or call 822-7872. The Morean Arts Center is located at 719 Central Avenue.

GREAT EXPLORATION - Their camps, designed for grades 1 through 5, stimulate learning and imagination with themes ranging from space exploration to sea life. Days are filled with experiments, arts, movement activities and guest presentations. The cost is $175 members and $195 non-members. They are located at 1925 4th Street N. Call 821-8992 or visit GreatEx.org.

CREATIVE CLAY - Creative Clay offers Art Around the World for children 6-12 and a Summer Studio for Teens 13-22. They are located at 1114 Central Avenue. Visit www.CreativeClay.org or call 825-0515 for information.

SAILING CAMP - The Sailing Center, located at 250 2nd Avenue SE just east of The Yacht Club's main building, offers sailing camps for all ages. Five sessions are offered, beginning June 13 with morning and afternoon camps. Call 822-3113 or visit www.SPYC.org.

CANTERBURY SCHOOL CAMPS With more than 100 offerings throughout the summer, there are choices for every interest from Marine Studies, Coding and App Design, Mad Science, Cake Decorating, Softball Skills, Tennis, Hoola Hooping, Yoga, American Girl Doll, Photography, Gardening, Arts & Crafts, Archery and so much more! One of their most popular camps--Marine Studies—is run by Canterbury's Director of Marine Studies, Jenna LoDico and offered to students entering PK4 - Grade 8. Students who attend this camp get to spend a week at the world's first Cousteau Diver partner school and learn about Tampa Bay's ecosystems and organisms. Canterbury summer programs are open to everyone, not just Canterbury families. Camps are full or half days for four-year-olds through Grade 12. All camps are held on the school's Knowlton Campus, where for-credit academic courses are also offered at the High School level. Visit www.canterburyflorida.org for a list of camps or call 727 525 1419.

FIRST TEE OF ST. PETERSBURG If your kids play golf or want to learn, there are full and half-day summer golf camps at Twin Brooks, Cypress Links, and Mangrove Bay golf courses for kids 6-17. Visit TheFirstTeeStPetersburg.org or call 551-3300 for information.

HUMANE SOCIETY CAMPS - They offer four, week-long camps for ages 7-12 where kids spend a week learning animal care, behavior, current events and animal careers. Camps are: June 13 - 17, June 27 - July 1, July 11 - 15th and July 25 - 29. Visit HumaneSocietyofPinellas.org.

TAMPA BAY WATCH ESTUARY ED-VENTURES - Their Summer Camp offerings have multiple opportunities for learning and adventure. Its location on Shell Key Preserve provides exciting hands-on opportunities to learn about marine ecology and restoration. Call 867-8166 or visit TampaBayWatch.org.

RAYS BASEBALL CAMP - Enjoy a major league training experience including hitting, pitching and running the bases inside the Dome with special guest speakers including current/former Rays players and coaches. Camp cost from $200 to $250. For kids 6-13. Call 825-3415.

FREE SUMMER PRE-K - Registration is open for the free summer voluntary pre-kindergarten program presented by Pinellas County Schools from June 13-July 29. Children must be 5-years old on or before September 1st. Visit VPKPinellas.net for the online application or information. For questions, call 400-4411.

THEATRE CAMPS - Largo Cultural Center offers live theatre camps. Teens 12-18 are invited to sign up for Legally Blonde, The Musical, - June 13 to July 2. Children ages 9-13 can register for Disney's Peter Pan Jr., - July 18 to August 6. Both are 3-week camps, Monday-Friday, 9am to 4pm. For kids 13-18 interested in working behind the scenes, there is Technical Theatre Production Camp, - July 25 to August 6. Visit LargoArts.com or call 587-6751.

AUTISTIC SAILING CAMP - Freedom Sailing Summer Camp is a special camp for autistic kids, 8 and up, where they will learn to sail or paddleboard. The 2-week camp starts June 20th, July 5 and July 18th. Visit FreedomSailingCampofFloridainc.com or call Bonnie Monroe at 224-1726.

ST. ANTHONYS HOSPITAL - Each summer about 50 teenagers are added to the St. Anthony's Volunteer Army through their Student Volunteer Summer Program. Applications are available for teens ages 14-17 and is intended for those who have health care careers in mind that want to gain experience working alongside team members at St. Anthony's. Visit www.StAnthonys.com/Volunteers or call Heather Rutkowski, 825-1757 for more information. Deadline is this month.

BOYD HILL NATURE PRESERVE This 245-acre park located near Lake Maggiore offers six different summer camps designed for ages 3 to adult. Call 893-7326 or visit www.StPete.org/boyd/daycamps.

BROOKER CREEK PRESERVE – They offer a Herpetology Camp for children 7 to 11 to explore the fascinating world of amphibians and reptiles through close encounters with a variety of animals including tortoises, frogs, lizards and snakes. The Camp is in August and is limited to only 30 participants. The cost is $150 for one week. Call 865-6255.

WEEDEN ISLAND PRESERVE There are three Camps within the Preserve in North St. Petersburg. Each held on a different week with a different theme. Enrollment is limited. Call 813-396-2325.

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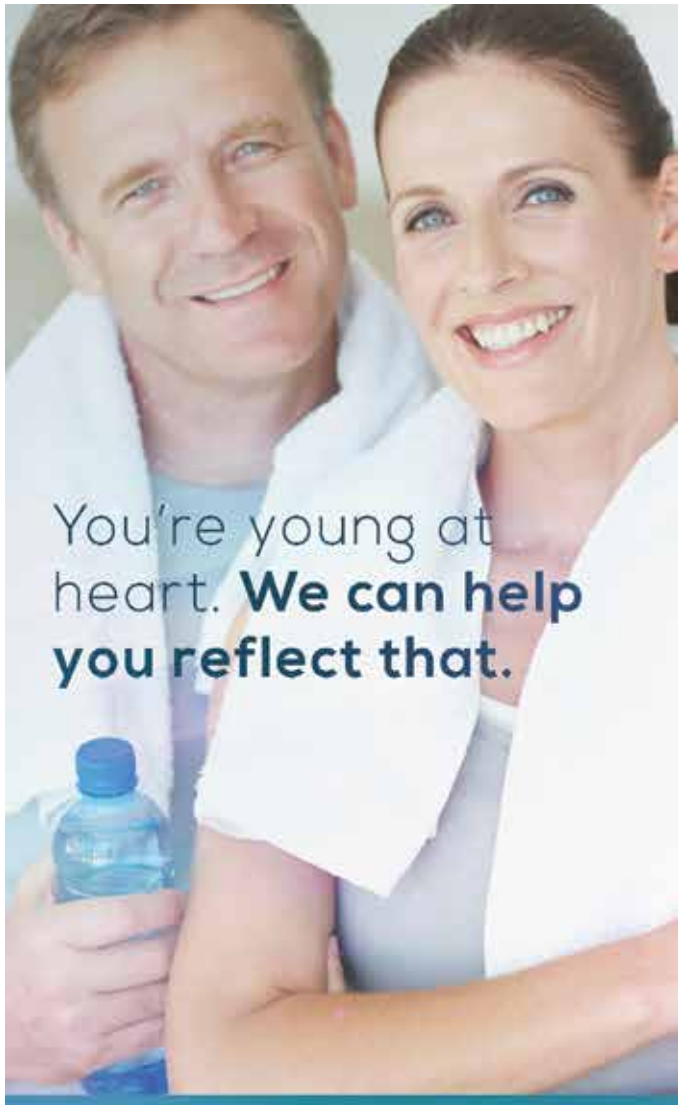

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Business Briefs

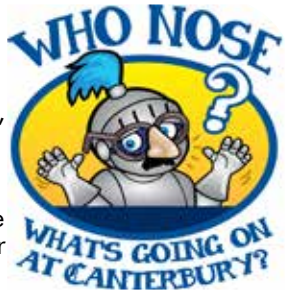
VINOY UPGRADES Over the next two years, the Renaissance Vinoy will under go multi-phased renovation and redevelopment project. It will begin with a renovation of properties in Snell Isle, including the golf course and its amenities scheduled to begin this month. This first phase includes a new Club House restaurant, a redesigned and expanded Sunset Swimming Pool with cabana lounges, a separate splash pad and kids zone for families, new food and beverage service for golfers, new locker rooms, and many general golf course improvements.

The Vinoy began a grand come back in 1992, which helped spark a renaissance of our downtown area. "Upgrades to our resort will elevate its comfort and sophistication for our Vinoy Club Members and our resort guests, too," says Barbara Readey, Vinoy General Manager.

YMCA BUILDING'S RENOVATION MOVING FORWARD Nicholas Ekonomou, owner of the YMCA is trying to develop the historic YMCA site on 5th Street S., but design and construction plans were delayed by a lawsuit. That suit, which cost him $575,000 in legal fees, has been settled and now he is moving ahead with architects and contractors. His plans include primarily keeping the 1927 building's structure including the large swimming pool in the basement, while converting it into a mixed-use facility with a boutique hotel. It will also feature a wedding venue, restaurant, members-only club and short-term luxury rentals.

MORE CHANGES AT MONTICELLO MOTEL The old motel at 1700 4th Street N. is not going to be a converted into a food court, as conceived by owner Jonathan Daou who bought the 64-year old property a year ago for $825,000. His plans to turn the complex into a food court hotel, a concept he saw in New York, won't be allowed due to lack of parking. Daou decided to sell the property for $1.2 million. The current owner has a "Will build to suit" sign. Call RPS Realty at 510-7106 if you are interested.

CANTERBURY SCHOOL The mission of Canterbury School of Florida's Summer Programs is to provide an environment shaped by a sense of adventure, a love of learning, a playful spirit and dynamic instructors. Their camp counselors, faculty, and coaches team up to provide each camper a magical summer experience where life skills can be learned, self-esteem can be developed, and new friends can be made. Canterbury summer programs are open to everyone, not just Canterbury families, so bring a friend to learn, laugh, explore, and create lifelong memories. Who NOSE what's going on at Canterbury this summer?



PUBLIX OFFERING NUTRITIONAL GUIDANCE

Where have you gone for advice on your diet? To your doctor? A commercial weight loss center? Weight Watchers?

Publix Super Markets wants you to know you can now come to them. By educating consumers on nutrition, Publix is hoping to promote home cooking. Of course they are also hoping your healthy eating will result in you buying more groceries from them. It is a win-win, you get healthy advice and they sell more groceries.

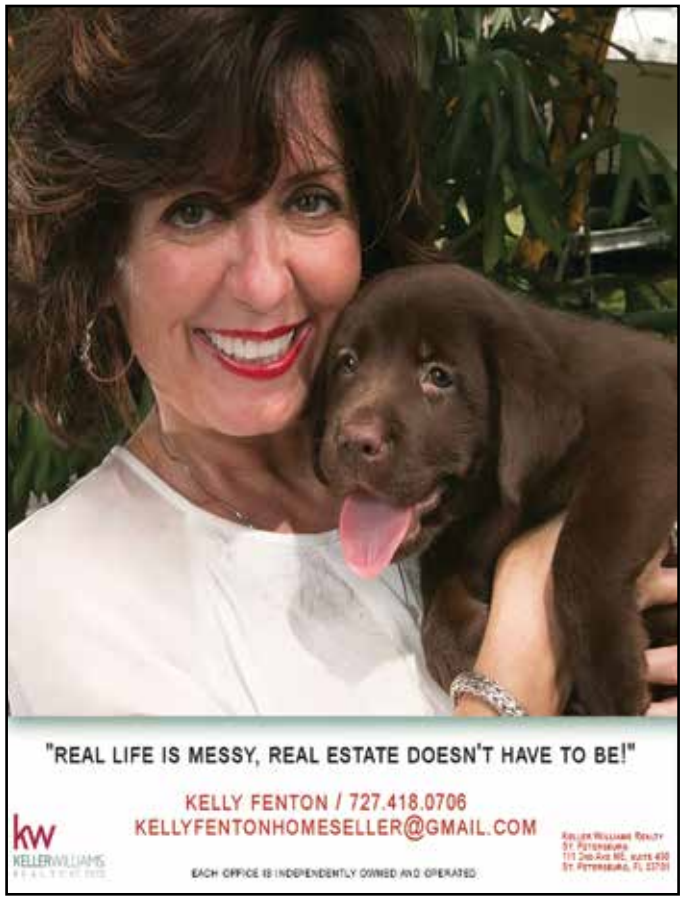
The major grocery store chain recently expanded its dietitian services inside three stores in the Tampa Bay area; one of those is the Publix at the Northeast Shopping Center.

The special center inside the store is small, only 100 SF, but that is more than enough space to help you with your dietary needs. Some services are free, like monthly grocery store tours with healthy or nutritional themes, food tastings and wellness classes. Others, including one-on-one nutrition counseling, personalized shopping and corporate programs are available for a small fee.

Their team of registered dietitians have programs and resources to help you keep your nutrition in mind while shopping, starting with labels. You'll find Better Choice brown tags, and gluten-free icons on the shelves so it is easy to know what to choose. The store also provides detailed shopping lists for specific requests like low sodium, gluten-free, and kosher. There is a helpful recipe booklet for diabetics that features tasty and filling meals that are within dietary recommendations for levels of fat, calories, saturated fat, and sodium.

The store's dietitians can teach you how to read and understand product labels, meal planning, pantry makeovers, and the purpose of creating food and activity logs. So far, the new dietary services program has been very well received," says Brian West, Publix's Community Relations spokesperson. "There are no plans at this time to expand this program to other stores in the area, though. It is a unique offering for only a few stores," West adds.

Visit the Publix in the Northeast Shopping Center at 200 37th Avenue N. Call for an appointment at 895-1670. If you prefer you can email your nutritional questions to publix.dietitian@publix.com



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Text REG to 57801

Duke Energy Storm

Are you ready for hurricane season?

Alex Glenn
Duke Energy
State President, Florida

Hurricane season begins June 1, and experts are predicting a more active season than in recent years. It has been more than a decade since a hurricane has affected Florida, but we know it isn't a matter of "if" a hurricane will strike, but "when."

Duke Energy Florida is ready to respond. During the past year, Duke Energy Florida has continued to take aggressive action to strengthen our energy delivery system, such as comprehensively inspecting power poles, upgrading our distribution system and thoroughly trimming trees and vegetation that may contribute to power outages if a storm strikes.

Over the last four years, we've invested more than $640 million to maintain and strengthen our Florida system.

Being fully prepared is essential and we encourage our customers to take the time to plan ahead:

- Create (or update) an emergency supply kit to help you save valuable time later. Remember, your supply kit should be made up of everything you need for at least two weeks, especially medicines and other supplies that may be hard to find.
- Keep a supply of water and nonperishable food items on hand.
- Ensure all first-aid supplies and medicines are readily available.
- Review your insurance policy and include an extra copy of it in your supply kit, along with extra copies of any other important paperwork.
- Make sure flashlights are readily available and working and that a supply of extra batteries is on hand.
- Have a portable radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio access to monitor official weather forecasts and other important information for your area.
- Have a plan to move yourself and your family – especially those with special needs – to an alternate location in case you have to evacuate or experience an extended power outage.
- If you have an emergency generator, learn how to use it safely and ensure it is in working order.

We're proud to be recognized as an industry leader in storm preparedness and restoration and we want to ensure you are ready for hurricane season as well.

On behalf of Duke Energy's nearly 4,000 Florida employees, we wish you a safe storm season.

Alex Glenn is state president, Florida at Duke Energy, the largest electric power company in the U.S., serving more than 1.7 million customers in Florida.

OVER-50s HELP TO POWER TAMPA BAY ECONOMY

By Jeff Johnson, AARP Florida's State Director

Despite the attention given to millennials, Tampa Bay includes the highest percentage of residents who are 65 or older in the nation. As boomers continue to reach that 65-plus milestone, don't expect the bay area to yield its top spot any time soon.

What's rarely mentioned, however, is that the same features that attract the talent, energy and potential of the millennials will also attract and keep vibrant Florida's huge — and economically muscular — 50-plus population.

As Tampa Bay charts a course toward economic growth, elected officials, economic development experts and entrepreneurs should simultaneously target millennials and also court the 50-plus population. Here's why:

• **OLDER PEOPLE HAVE MONEY**: While there are wide economic disparities among the 50 and over population as there are throughout all generations in the United States, older people are much more likely to be financially well off than millennials. Americans aged 50 or older control 80 percent of the wealth of the country.

• **GRAY IS GOLD IN FLORIDA**: According to a 2015 study prepared by AARP and Oxford Economics, people 50 or older were responsible for 57 percent of all consumer spending in the Tampa Bay region. Statewide, a 2014 study by the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation found Floridians ages 50 and over were responsible for 58 percent of all consumer spending in the state, sustained nearly 6 million jobs and created $429 billion per year in direct, indirect and induced economic impact.

• **ACTIVE BOOMERS ARE WORKERS**: In 2015, 63 percent of the 50-plus population was in the workforce. They earn more than half of all employee compensation, though they make up about 35 percent of the total workforce.

• **BOOMERS ARE ENTREPRENEURS**: Florida has long been known as a small business state, and entrepreneurs and startups have been key to the state's recurring economic booms. What's not as well recognized is that about 15% of the 50-plus population are small business entrepreneurs, compared to about 11 percent of the 25-49 age range.

Later this year, AARP Florida and Encore Tampa Bay will offer the Caregiver Accelerator, a learning experience for people interested in creating new businesses that can support family caregivers and those they care for.

Would-be entrepreneurs will get coaching on how to put together a business plan, find capital and grow a fledgling business from a good idea. In May, AARP is sponsoring a conference at which entrepreneurs will be able to pitch their business ideas to potential investors. The potential business upside is enormous — Florida already has 2.67 million family caregivers. With tomorrow's longer life-spans, the market for caregiver services is poised for rapid growth.

This year, the oldest boomers turn 70 and the youngest turn 52. Most are still working and many still have children in school. Millennials are still establishing their niche in their career and personal lives. In each generation, Florida can find opportunities for growth and prosperity.

AARP Florida stands ready to work with anyone to build livable communities across the state through the AARP/World Health Organization Age Friendly Network of Communities. Together, we'll build a Florida that welcomes all ages to the sunshine.

PREPARING FOR A DISASTER TAKES A COMMUNITY

The American Red Cross prepares to respond to disasters year round with the hope that we never need to use that training. But each year, Floridians must deal with the realization we are the most hurricane-vulnerable.

The Tropical Meteorology Project from Colorado State University predicts that the "2016 Atlantic basin hurricane season will have approximately average activity." They predict a total of 13 named storms and six hurricanes. But it only takes one storm (or even a tropical storm) to destroy our paradise.

Hurricanes can cause hazards such flooding, storm surge, high winds and tornadoes. Preparation is the best protection against these dangers.

Standard homeowners insurance doesn't cover flooding. It's important to have flood protection associated with hurricanes, tropical storms, heavy rains and other conditions that impact us. For information on flood insurance, visit www.FloodSmart.gov.

The Red Cross recommends all Florida residents update their family evacuation plan, emergency preparedness kit and get better prepared.

Download the free Red Cross Emergency app to your mobile device. Emergency is the one-download resource that puts vital information at your fingertips. This "all-inclusive" app combines more than 35 different severe weather and emergency alerts from natural to man-made, giving you real-time information to help keep you and your loved ones safe. Choose the alerts that are important to your location. Monitor activity across the country to know when incidents are about to occur in the locations of your family and friends. Activate "Family Safe" to notify loved ones that an alert has been issued in their area and check to see if they are safe. Access vital information on what to do before, during and after an emergency strikes. Download via Apple App Store or Google Play or text "GETEMERGENCY" to 90999. Disponible en español.

Make an emergency preparedness kit. Your kit should include a portable, sturdy, easy to carry, water resistant container and should have enough supplies for seven days. Check your kit and replace perishable stock every six months. Whether you purchase a kit or choose to build your own, your seven-day kit should include:

- Water - one gallon/person, per day.
- Food - non-perishable, easy items such as tuna fish, peanut butter, crackers, and canned fruit. Make sure to include a manual can opener.
- A battery or hand-crank radio, flashlight and plenty of extra batteries.
- A first aid kit.
- Prescription and non-prescription medication items (seven-day supply). Include medical supplies like extra hearing aid batteries, syringes, etc.
- Copies of important documents, including birth certificates, insurance policies, a medication list and medical information, proof of address, deed/ lease to home and social security cards.
- Cell phone chargers.
- Multi-purpose tool.
- Sanitation and hygiene items.
- Extra cash. ATMs and credit cards won't work if the power is out.
- Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members.
- A blanket or sleeping bag per person.
- Pet supplies (collar, leash, ID, food, carrier, bowls).
- Maps of the area.

Prepare a family evacuation plan that includes:

- Identifying two meeting places: one right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire, and one outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home.
- Making advanced preparations for your pets. Be aware that pets may not be allowed in shelters. Contact hotels, motels, family members and animal shelters to see if they would allow pets in a disaster situation. Keep a list of "pet friendly" locations. If you evacuate, take your pets with you.
- Choose an out-of-area emergency contact person. During or after a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance, if local phone lines are overloaded or out of service. Family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact person's phone number and email address.
- Plan your evacuation route. Use local maps and identify alternate evacuation routes from home, work and/or school. Know where you are going and how to get there before you leave home.

Know what to do if a hurricane WATCH is issued.

- Listen to weather updates from your portable radio.
- Bring in outdoor objects such as lawn furniture, hanging plants, bicycles, toys and garden tools; anchor objects that cannot be brought inside.
- Close all windows and doors. Cover windows with storm shutters or plywood.
- If time permits, and you live in an identified surge zone, elevate furniture or move it to a higher floor to protect it from flooding.
- Fill your vehicle's gas tank.
- Check your disaster supplies kit to make sure items have not expired.

Know what to do if a hurricane WARNING is issued.

- Listen to the advice of local officials, and leave if told to do so. To locate the nearest Red Cross emergency shelter, check your hurricane app or visit redcross.org/shelter.
- If in a manufactured home, check tie-downs and evacuate when told to.
- Unplug unnecessary appliances.
- Turn your refrigerator and freezer to the coldest setting and keep them closed as much as possible.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- If not advised to evacuate, stay inside, away from windows, skylights and doors.
- Use flashlights. Do NOT use open flames, candles and kerosene lamps.
- If power is lost, turn off appliances to reduce damage from a power surge when electricity is restored.

Get involved – find opportunities to support community preparedness and response.

- Call American Red Cross at 727-898-3111 to get started as a volunteer or visit redcross.org/central-florida and click "Volunteer" on the left side of the home page.
- Get trained in CPR and First Aid by calling 1-800-Red-Cross or visit redcross.org/take-a-class.
- Once you become a Red Cross volunteer, take free disaster training courses at your local Red Cross office at 818 Fourth St. North, St. Pete.
- Stay connected with your local Red Cross via www.facebook.com/redcrosscentralflorida and on Twitter @TampaRedCross.

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To schedule an appointment, call **844-4BH-BHMG (844-424-2464)**.

Left to right: Marijo S. De La Cruz, D.O.; Irina Scutaru, M.D.; Lisa Ball, D.O.; Karen Joseph, M.D.; Daniel Eckstein, M.D.

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Internal Medicine
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St. Petersburg
Walk-ins welcome.

Irina Scutaru, M.D.
Internal Medicine
461 7th Ave. South
St. Petersburg

Lisa Ball, D.O.
Family Medicine
603 7th St. South, Suite 400
St. Petersburg

Karen Joseph, M.D.
Family Medicine
603 7th St. South, Suite 400
St. Petersburg
Walk-ins welcome.

Daniel Eckstein, M.D.
Family Medicine
603 7th St. South, Suite 400
St. Petersburg
Walk-ins welcome.

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DEPUTY MAYOR TOURS LIGHTER SIDE OF FOODIE CITY WITH VIRTUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER CAMPAIGN

As part of her Healthy St. Pete initiative, Deputy Mayor Dr. Kanika Tomalin is launching a series of artfully curated "Virtual Progressive Dinners" with the City of St. Petersburg. The dinners are tours that focus on the lighter side of the expanding social food and drink offerings available throughout the city's diverse and vibrant neighborhoods.

The campaign aims to highlight the mission of Healthy St. Pete, while supporting local establishments and featuring the more health-conscious options within the Burg's bustling foodie culture. This collaboration brings new names to the table, which is in line with Healthy St. Pete's practice of advancing the health and well-being of the community through partnership-based planning and innovative projects.

The Deputy Mayor launched this extension of her overall health efforts for the City last month by unveiling four routes for Downtown. Additional routes will be added, starting with the Deputy Mayor's neighborhood, West St. Pete.

Based on the old-fashioned neighborhood tradition of dinner parties where each course is served at a different home, Virtual Progressive Dinners are a collection of healthier food choices for those looking to enjoy the social benefits of eating out. Whether hosting visitors from out of town, going on a special date night, or exploring more of the city with friends, you'll enjoy multiple stops at restaurants within walking distance of each other, discovering the lighter fares available.

One of Healthy St. Pete's pillars of action is understanding and affecting lifestyle choices. The city, recognizing the growth of its culinary scene, wants to highlight that being healthy isn't always a restrictive endeavor. It can be enjoyable, social, and a great way to experience the city's culture; that's what the Virtual Progressive Dinners showcase.

"As we were putting the virtual progressives together, we found many of the culinary influencers the city is attracting today realize the impact of organic, gluten free, and locally sourced ingredients on the dining experience," said Dr. Tomalin. "St. Pete's talented chefs prove that sustainability and health consciousness don't limit creativity - if anything, it keeps them on their toes."

The first set of routes features 20 establishments including Florida Trend Magazine Golden Spoon award winners like The Mill, Forbes Travel Guide highlights like The Birchwood's rooftop bar, and multiple contenders in the Tampa Bay Time's Top 50 Restaurants of 2016 list, along with EAT Healthy Ambassador chef-led restaurants, Stillwaters Tavern and Parkshore Grill.

"With so many options, it was impossible to include everyone, so we want this to serve as inspiration to find what works for individuals at their favorite establishments," continued Dr. Tomalin. "This approach fits with Healthy St. Pete's goal to promote a more livable city that is attractive to residents, employers, and visitors."

View the entire Virtual Progressive Dinner tour outline at healthystpetefl.com/vpd/.

TWO SUNSTAR PARAMEDICS EMPLOYEES RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARD

Jeremy Tinter and Nicholas Eberhardt honored with Stars of Life award

Two Sunstar Paramedics employees, Jeremy Tinter and Nicholas Eberhardt, have received the American Ambulance Association's Stars of Life award, which recognizes ambulance service professionals for outstanding service and dedication. Eberhardt and Tinter were among 103 emergency services personnel recognized during the Stars of Life Celebration in Washington, D.C. last month.

"Nick and Jeremy are extraordinary EMS professionals who are dedicated to quality patient care and exceptional service," said Mark Postma, chief operating officer of Sunstar Paramedics. "We're thrilled that Stars of Life has recognized their service to Pinellas County, and proud to have them working as part of the Sunstar Paramedics team."

Tinter is a paramedic and clinical services coordinator who oversees Sunstar Paramedics' field training officer and employee orientation programs. Nominated for the award for his innovative work in clinical excellence, he is part of the clinical services team that has overhauled Sunstar Paramedics' orientation process to increase the capstone testing rates and onboard new paramedics quickly. The capstone testing scores have significantly improved to nearly 100 percent passing rate and the time spent in the onboarding process has decreased by 30 percent.

Eberhardt is an emergency medical technician (EMT) with Sunstar Paramedics. He was nominated for the award for his leadership and mentorship of new employees and his skill in proving outstanding patient care. In 2015, he was part of a core team from Sunstar Paramedics who went to Sioux Falls, South Dakota to assist in starting Paramedics Plus' newest operation. In Sioux Falls, Eberhardt was instrumental in leading and mentoring new employees and preparing them to serve the community as Paramedics Plus. He has been honored several times with Sunstar Paramedics' Care Plus award and recognized through its STAR program for providing excellent patient care.

Sunstar is the 911 ambulance transport service for all Pinellas County residents, employing 550 local residents, and responding to around 500 calls a day. Highly awarded and accredited, Sunstar utilizes state-of-the-art equipment and software, and (along with parent company Paramedics Plus) is an innovator of the industry's best practices. Sunstar's people are heavily involved in Pinellas communities, focusing largely on public safety programs for the public and for schools. Sunstar is also a recipient of the Florida Governor's Sterling Award, the state's most prestigious award recognizing "role models for organizational performance excellence." More info at SunstarEMS.com.

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Bar & Restaurant News

BEER + ART LOUNGE Close to 20 area brewing companies are taking on the challenge to create small batch brews that connect with works in the Museum of Fine Art's collection. Their brewing results will be showcased at the Museum on June 10, from 7-10pm. Local downtown breweries include: Green Bench Brewing Co., Pair O' Dice Brewing Co., St. Pete Brewing Co., Barley Mow Brewing Co., Pinellas Ale Works, Urban Comfort Restaurant & Brewery, 3 Daughter's Brewing Co. and more. Tickets are $55 in advance and $65 at the door and includes beer, an 11oz pilsner glass, brewers' collectors cards, wine, food, and admission to the galleries You can also purchase a two-day pass for $70 which includes admission to the public home brew tasting on June 13. Visit www.mfastpete.org for ticket information.

FRESH KITCHEN is open at 4447 Fourth Street N. in the site of the old Chinese restaurant. Fresh Kitchen features a diverse menu including cold-pressed juices, gluten-free bases, fresh seasonal roasted veggies, hormone-free meats, and guilt-free desserts. Their quick-service model promotes a unique, build-your-own bowl concept in a modern space with contemporary décor. This is a new concept for this company.

PUNKY'S BAR & GRILL This restaurant opened at 3063 Central Avenue, in the site of the short-lived Jimbo's Joint. They have an interesting menu, outside seating with a pool table, and a late night menu with special nightly activities. They serve craft beer on tap, wine, sangria and champagne. Learn more at www.PunkysBar.com.

PIPO'S NOW INSIDE TROPICANA FIELD You can now enjoy Pipo's authentic Cuban food while you watch a Rays game. The restaurant, who recently won Best Alternative Cuban Sandwich at Tampa's Cuban Sandwich festival will be serving their Cubans, fried plantains and more during the games.

BURGER MONGER This restaurant, located at 1325 4th Street N., is known for its Akaushi beef burgers and hot dogs. Akaushi beef originated in Japan, but in 1994 a small herd was relocated to Texas. Only this single-sourced Akaushi beef is used for a more tender, flavorful, and healthier burger. The restaurant offers a choice of over 40 burger toppings. They also serve fresh salads, hand-spun shakes and fresh cut fries. This is their third location.

NOW OPEN Daily Eats, an homage to New YC, features original shredder bowls, sandwiches, burgers, specialty mac and cheeses, homemade milkshakes, and gluten free desserts. it is located at 4447 4th St. N.

MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Wednesday, June 8, Coffee Talk with Nan Colton, the MFA's performing artist-in-residence

Enjoy refreshments at 10 a.m., Nan Colton's performance at 10:30, and a general docent tour at 11:15. FREE with MFA admission. Sponsored by Westminster Communities of St. Petersburg.

Before filmmakers, there were photographers. Just as Shana Moulton is charting new ground in video and performance art, Julia Margaret Cameron pushed photography forward in nineteenth-century Britain. Women artists faced enormous challenges in that era to be recognized. Nan Colton's profile of Cameron—*In Focus*—looks at her struggles, approach, and accomplishments against the odds.

Thursday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.: Book Club at the MFA, presented by Keep St. Pete Lit. FREE with MFA admission.

The quirky agoraphobic architect Bernadette Fox in Maria Semple's *Where'd You Go, Bernadette: A Novel* will prepare you to meet Cynthia, artist Shana Moulton's alter ego. Join the conversation about the book and the artist.

Sunday, June 19, 3 p.m.: The Wayne W and Francis Knight Parrish Lecture by artist Shana Moulton on the opening weekend of the exhibition. FREE with admission.

Anyone who has watched Shana Moulton describe her work online knows that she is accessible, relatable, and refreshingly honest. She will discuss her *Whispering Pines* video series, her performance pieces and operas, and her sculpture and installations. In our age of multimedia, Ms. Moulton has staked out her own territory in the art world and is gaining ever more critical attention.

Ms. Moulton has shown her work or performed at the Museum of Modern Art, The New Museum, and The Kitchen in New York; The Andy Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh; the J. Paul Getty Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Tate Modern in London; and major universities across the country.

The Parrish Lecture brings outstanding scholars and artists to the community. Mr. Parrish was a successful publisher of aviation magazines, and Mrs. Parrish was Director of the U.S. Passport Office from 1955-1977. The Parrishes donated many of the Museum's pre-Columbian objects, which are displayed in a gallery named in their honor.

Thursday, October 6, 7 p.m.: Shana Moulton's opera *Whispering Pines* 10. FREE with MFA admission, which is only $5 after 5 p.m. on Thursday, cash bar and lite bites.

This phantasmagoric opera/performance piece features video by Shana Moulton, along with her live performance and vocals by Daisy Press. Ms. Moulton on stage interacts and at times merges with the video. It is often difficult to discern where one leaves off and the other begins. Do we now spend more time in virtual reality and is it more powerful than the supposed real thing?

The work follows the efforts of her protagonist Cynthia to find meaning as an environmental activist, though she finds it impossible to leave the confines of her home. John Motley noted in his review for The Oregonian that "Moulton's treatment of life's most vexing questions is kitschy, trippy, and, at times, laugh-out-loud funny, but it is also genuinely heartbreaking. Moulton reminds us that…our longing for spiritual communion is still kicking."

For the latest updates on public programs, please visit www.mfastpete.org.

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THE VITALE BROTHERS HAVE BRUSH...WILL TRAVEL

By Bob Griffin, Publisher

Murals have been popping up on the sides of downtown St. Petersburg's buildings everywhere. One of the people behind it is the gifted muralist Johnny Vitale.

Vitale says he has been a doodler as far back as he can remember. His mother says as a child, he used to scribble, even when he was in his highchair.

When he finished high school, Vitale did not know what he wanted to do, so he got a job as a waiter at The Hurricane Restaurant in Pass-A-Grille. He was the guy who drew on the chalkboards and made happy faces on the guest's receipt. He also did some t-shirts. Vitale admits he was a lousy waiter and the restaurant's owner Rick Faulkenstein agrees.

One day, Rick told Vitale he had good news and bad news. The bad news was he was being fired from his waiter job. The good news was they wanted him to paint some large murals on three of walls at the Hurricane and pay him to do it. It was Vitale first paid job as an artist.

When the Hurricane murals were done, Vitale and his brother Paul, went to work for a local billboard company painting large images on billboards. As luck would have it, the company went digital the following year and fired all their painters.

Vitale and his brother decided to start their own mural painting business. In the beginning, business was slow. Very slow.

Back in 2000, Vitale was driving past Carmelita's Mexican Restaurant on Park Street and had a vision of a Mexican lady dancing in a colorful dress on the side of the building. He sketched it on a napkin and left it with the manager. Two days later, the owner Vince Lopez called him and asked "How much?" They struck a deal and Carmelita's became the first customer of his new business.

Things took off after that, and since then, the Vitale Brothers, have done some big things, including: Murals inside of Tropicana Field, the back of The State Theater, Tampa's Poe Parking Garage next to The Glazer Museum, Tropical Scooters, Thai Pan Alley and P.J.'s Oyster Bar in Indian Rocks Beach. Great Bay Distributors had them paint murals inside their new building in St. Petersburg which turned out to be one of their largest projects to date.

"Those Vitale Brothers are a hoot to work with," says Bama Palmer, owner of P.J.'s Oyster Bar. "They are so creative—and fast. All I had to do was point at a wall, and they were on it the next day."

Last fall, the Arts Alliance of Downtown St. Pete, sponsored a mural painting festival which included painting ten large buildings. The Vitale brothers painted or assisted in with three of them. To see their Downtown Mural work, visit www.ShineOnStPete.com.

"The Vitale Brothers are very talented artists," says John Collins, Director of the Downtown Arts Alliance. "People do not know how much they were the cornerstone of the Shine Mural Festival. They prepared the other artists, advised them, and helped the emerging artists. We were very fortunate to have them working with us and basically, they are just really nice guys."

Vitale is very proud of a mural he did on the back of Evil Don's Tattoos at 2063 Central Avenue. It features the faces of his son Jack, brother Paul's son Cash and both of Evil Don's kids - Emma and Eli.

Loreal Hair Company, a division of Salon Centrix, discovered them and flies them all over the U.S. to paint their new stores. "Loreal has become our biggest clients, based on money," says Vitale.

They travel to many distant states including California, Iowa, New Jersey, Las Vegas, Georgia and Virginia. When they fly, they cannot take any paint on the airplane. When they get to their destination, they rent a car and head straight to Home Depot and Michaels. They normally carry their own brushes with them. "Have Brushes—Will Travel," Vitale chuckles.

Vitale, now 45, says his company has grown to four people including himself, brother Paul and two other artists. When he needs more help, he knows where to find it. "The art world is a tight knit group. When we need help ,we can usually get it with just a phone call," Vitale explains.

So the next time you see a large painting on the side of a wall, you might be looking at the work of the Vitale Brothers. See more of their work at VitaleBrothers.com. To get your own mural, call them at 727-520-0969.

HOW TOURISTS CONTRIBUTE TO OUR LOCAL QUALITY OF LIFE

By Pinellas County Commission Chairman Charlie Justice

As Florida's second smallest county – only 280 square miles – and the state's most densely-populated, hosting 15 million visitors in a year can make life feel pretty eventful here. At the end of another busy spring break season, it's important to remember all the benefits the tourism industry brings us. You might not realize all those visitors clogging traffic onto Clearwater Beach are footing a large portion of the bill for maintaining the roads and sandy beaches we enjoy all year.

This year, I have the pleasure of serving as chairman of our Tourist Development Council, the body of business leaders and elected officials advising the Board of County Commissioners about our tourism industry. One of our key responsibilities is deciding how to spend revenues from our Tourist Development Tax that hotels charge for overnight stays. As revenue from the "bed tax" has spiked in the past few years, our county became one of a handful of "high-impact" tourism counties in Florida. That gives us the option by state law to raise the tax from 5 to 6%, which we chose to do starting in 2016. During the 2015 calendar year, the bed tax generated a record $40 million, which can be spent on infrastructure, nourishing eroded beaches, investing in museums, stadiums and other capital projects that bring more visitors and, most importantly, marketing our destination to a visitors around the world. We commit 60 percent of the bed tax to these marketing efforts and we are getting results. The bed tax also supports our efforts to bring more airline service to our area with more direct flights, which allows our residents to travel around the country and the world more easily.

In March, I traveled with our tourism agency Visit St. Pete/Clearwater to Germany to attend the world's leading travel trade show, ITB Berlin. Our county has attended this conference for years, forging long-term relationships with tourism officials, tour operators, travel agents, airlines and travel media who have helped make Pinellas County a global destination. Thanks to our marketing investments, visitors know there's more to Florida than Miami and Disney World. An increasing number of international travelers are making the drive from Orlando to our beaches rather than elsewhere in the state. Most of our European visitors base their two-week holidays on the recommendations of travel agents rather than scouring the Internet for hotel deals, so our continued presence abroad is critical.

The dollars we spend on marketing our destination are sustained by the visitors who come every year through the bed tax, but that's not the only contribution tourism makes to our local community. Last year, researchers estimated that overnight visitors represented $4.5 billion in direct spending in our community and had a wider economic impact of about $9 billion. Another cut of all that spending is our 1-percent local sales tax known as the Penny for Pinellas. This tax pays for our big capital projects, our roads, bridges, drainage systems, parks and public safety facilities. Our visitors contribute more than a third of all the Penny sales tax revenue, which helps us maintain our quality of life while keeping property taxes lower.

Improving transportation and traffic flow remains a priority for all of us in local government, especially when our roads get overwhelmed by tourists. But next time you're on the way to the beach during peak season and you get briefly stuck on the Clearwater Memorial Causeway Bridge, keep this in mind: all the tourists in those cars in front of you help pay for so many of the roads, bridges, parks and other amenities we enjoy in every corner of our county.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any concerns or issues you may have at (727) 464-3363 or cjustice@pinellascounty.org.

SUNKEN GARDENS WELCOMES 20 NEW FLAMINGOS

George and Lucy have been empty-nesters in recent years at Sunken Gardens, a St. Petersburg historic botanical attraction. The two lonely flamingos were once part of 17 flamingos who made their home at the Gardens, which is one of Florida's original roadside attractions. The two have been anxiously awaiting some new feathered friends.

After more than three years of fundraising efforts by supportive citizens, Sunken Gardens welcomed a new flock of 20 young Chilean flamingos. Mayor Rick Kriseman hosted an event at the Gardens, 1825 Fourth Street N., last month, to welcome the new long-legged wading birds.

"It has been quite the journey to get our new flamingos, and we couldn't have done it without the commitment and enthusiasm of the community," said Gardens Supervisor Bill O'Grady. He traveled to meet the birds prior to their journey to St. Petersburg and will monitor them closely the first few weeks in their new home.

Raising funds was only the first step in getting the precious pink birds to their new home in one of Florida's most beautiful botanical gardens. In late 2015, the city funded a new night time enclosure to house the anticipated birds, and then in 2016, it finally received a commitment from their breeder that he would allow them to purchase the birds. The city underwent a rigorous adoption process, which included several required letters of recommendation and documentation of adequate living conditions. The Gardens welcomed them to the community with a Flamingo Festival on May 1.

For more information on St. Pete's journey to restock the flock, contact Lauren Kleinfeld, Sunken Gardens Manager, at Lauren.Kleinfeld@stpete.org.

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RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

Laurie Zugay & Bill Hallar – Housewarmers

Laurie and Bill have volunteered as Housewarmers in the Ronald McDonald St. Pete East House kitchen every Thursday night since March 2015, amassing over 80 hours of service. As Housewarmers, they greet dinner groups and familiarize them to the kitchen as they prepare meals for our families. Their easy, gentle manner helps put everyone at ease; they answer questions, help prepare food, locate essential items and, most importantly, join families and groups for dinner to engage in conversation. Laurie has also put in countless hours assisting with the East House renovations. Many of the lovely elements in the house are the direct result of her keen eye for design and ability to envision the best layout. Laurie and Bill are also special event volunteers who enjoy helping at core fundraisers. What a great team!

Join them at the Storybook Ball 2016 "Frozen" presented by MetLife on Saturday, May 21, 6pm-Midnight, at the Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina. The black-tie gala will feature live and silent auctions, entertainment, games, dining and dancing. The Award of Excellence will be presented to Rob & Diane Klingel. Proceeds benefits Ronald McDonald House of Tampa Bay, www.rmhctampabay.org.

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KAHWA COFFEE - BLENDING OF COFFEE AND PEOPLE

by Bob Griffin, Publisher

What does Kahwa mean? According to Raphael Perrier, owner of Kahwa Coffee in St. Petersburg, it means coffee and he knows, because that is his business.

Coffee got its known beginnings in Ethiopia in the Kaffa region of Africa. The Turkish name for coffee is Kahve, which evolved into Qahwa in Arabic. Today, the spelling differs from country to country, but kahwa is the original spelling for the word coffee throughout Africa. It evolved to café in France and caffe in Italy. The French use kahwa as slang for coffee. Raphael is from France, and the trademarked the word Kahwa for his company name.

When you talk to Raphael, you instantly know he is originally from France. His wife Sarah is from Canada but has lived much of her life in St. Petersburg. The two met and married in Philadelphia, where Raphael was a local Batista in cafe.

Ten years ago, after they were married, they moved to St. Petersburg and started a business, importing coffee beans. At first, they bought, blended and roasted their special brand of coffee and only sold it wholesale. Then in 2008, they opened their first store on the corner of 5th Avenue and 2nd Street N., in St. Petersburg. Today, they have a very large distribution network which sells their coffee wholesale locally and internationally. At the same time, they now manage nine coffee shops in the Tampa Bay area. They are in the process of opening their tenth store in Belleair Bluffs in June.

Employees, called Baristas, must undergo an intense training program at the store to make sure each cup of coffee they serve is "the best coffee you have ever had," says Raphael. They employ over 80 people, nine of which are at their St. Pete roastery, near 34th Street N. That is primarily where Raphael and Sarah are each day.

They own nine coffee and bakery stores in the Tampa Bay area. Four stores are in Tampa, four are in St. Pete, and one is in Sarasota. The 10th store is under construction in Belleair Bluffs.

The Perriers import beans from all over the world, especially Central and South America. To bring complex flavors to each cup of coffee, Kahwa specially blends different types of coffee beans. They only use 100% Arabica beans, but can be grown worldwide. Once the beans arrive in St. Petersburg, they are roasted at their St. Petersburg roastery. "We are extremely proud of our unique coffee blends," adds Sarah. "We make a wide variety of blends and know anyone can find one or more suited to his or her tastes."

Their types of coffee includes: Sirocco, Mistral, Boreas, Zonda, and Special Roasts. You can learn about each one on their web site, www.KahwaCoffee.com. The blends are available to purchase at many area grocery stores including Rollin' Oats at 2842 Dr. Martin Luther King St. N. Lately, you may also see the two on HSN promoting their coffees nationwide.

"Weekly, we roast and ship more than 5,000 pounds of coffee," says Raphael. "Not bad for only 9 people." They have over 600 wholesale customers, worldwide. Many customers are in Philadelphia, Miami, Orlando including Epcot, the Bahamas, and other major cities. They also sell directly to hundreds of area restaurants.

"We use their coffee in all our downtown area stores," says Steve Westphal, owner of Parkshore Grill, 400 Beach Seafood & Tap House, The Hangar and other restaurants. "Kahwa is a great local brand and Raphael and Sarah are wonderful people."

Their stores offer more than just coffee. They serve a selection of French pastries, organic cookies, and muffins. Some stores offer a lunch menu with fresh salads, sandwiches, and have outdoor café seating. Of course, their stores also sell their coffee by the pound.

They are equally proud of their local community involvement. They live in the Allendale area where their two children attend nearby schools. They support many local non-profit organizations and participate in many local fundraising efforts.

For information or to find the locations of their stores, visit www.KahwaCoffee.com.

Construction News

It seems like we are hearing announcements weekly of new construction projects in the downtown area. This is not a comprehensive list, but some of the better known housing projects being built or in the works.

ONE - This 41 story development is under construction and will be a mixed-use development featuring luxury condominiums, a high-end hotel and retail stores on the first level. There will be 253 luxury units priced from the high $500s and 174 hotel rooms. It is located at 100 1st Avenue N. Visit onestpetersburg.com.

801 CENTRAL AVENUE – A four story apartment building may be built at this location incorporating the Union Trust Co. building. There are still some permitting and design hurdles to clear.

801 CONWAY - This 35 unit townhome community is being built in three buildings at 801 Burlington Avenue. Homes start in the high $200s and about half are sold. Visit 801atconway.com.

AER ST. PETERSBURG APARTMENTS – This 18 story, pet friendly, apartment complex will offer 358 units including Studio to 3 bedroom/2 bath units. Monthly prices range from $1600 to $4700. It will be located at 330 3rd St. S. and covers just over 2.5 acres.

THE ARLINGTON - An urban chic contemporary townhome community, it is offering forty luxuriously appointed townhomes ranging in size from 1,700 to 2,100 square feet. The townhouses will be located at 8th Street and Arlington Avenue N. A model is open at 818 2nd Ave N. Each unit will be three floors with a top floor patio/terrace. Visit www.arlingtonstpete.com.

BLISS - Featuring expansive city and water views, and a Sky Lounge on the roof, it is located at 176 4th Avenue NE, behind the Birchwood. The project offers a 4-story parking garage below the three bedroom/two and a half baths units with 2,140 square feet of living space. Only one unit, a penthouse, is still available and it is $2.9 million. Visit blissoverbeachdrive.com.

THE BROWNSTONES – The Development will feature five, 4,000 square-foot three bedroom/four bath units with a rooftop terrace, and a detached garage/separate living space. This development is located at 1st Street and 4th Avenue N. Prices range from $1.5 to $2 million. Visit brownstonesstpete.com.

More Construction News

THE HERMITAGE – This 8-story, 348 unit luxury apartment complex located on a 2-acre full city block at 151 7th Street S. is within walking distance of USFSP. The inclination toward creativity will permeate the entire building. Named after the The Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, the theme is "The Art of Inspired Living." Call (727) 800-2878 for more information.

LIV233 – – A proposed 3-unit, four-story townhome development, each with a rooftop terrace, 3 bedrooms, 4 ½ baths and an elevator. Each will be offered for close to a $1 million. It is located at 233 4th Ave N. Visit www.liv233.com.

ROWLAND PLACE – This 6-story complex will be 17 condominiums along 4th Avenue and Beach Drive.

VELA ST. PETE – This 20 unit condominium project features 18 corner units and nine floor plans. Prices start in the mid-$300s. It is located near the intersection of 4th Ave. and 8th St. S.

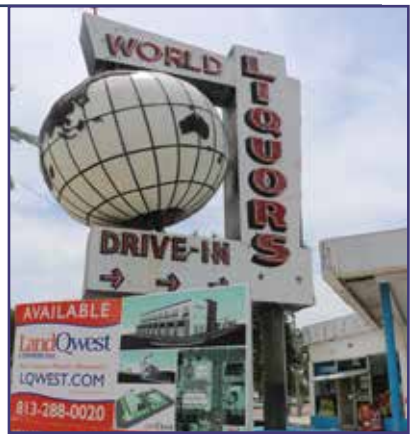
ONYX APARTMENTS - A proposed 22-story, 244-unit apartment tower and parking garage to be located between 3rd and 4th Street and 2nd and 3rd Avenue S., where the Onyx nightclub was. It will be built by the same developer building Aer Apartments across the street.

THE SALVADOR - This upscale, condominium tower will be green certified. It features 74 residences and is located at 199 Dali Boulevard S. 80% of the units have been sold. Visit thesalvador.com.

THE SANDERLINGS This Townhome community is located at 426 11th Ave NE with eight, two story townhomes. It should be completed by next year. Visit thesanderlingsstpete.com.

THE TOWNS ON FIFTH - Billed as another Luxury Townhome community, it is located at the corner of 5th Avenue N. and Beach Drive. There six units with two floor plans, each with three bedrooms, three and a half baths, a 2 car garage and a rooftop terrace. Only two units are left. Prices start at $916,900. Visit www.townsonfifth.com

WORLD LIQUORS PROJECT - This 3 story mixed use project will have 14 apartments and 13,000 square feet of retail space including a new World Liquors. The residential units will front Central Ave while the new World Liquors building will front 16th Street N.



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WAYNE HEFTY LEFT HIS MARK ON OUR AREA

Wayne Hefty arrived in Pinellas County riding his HOG - a Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

He came from Kentucky, where he was the President of the Grim Reapers, a large biker club. "I got tired of that lifestyle, and moved here to change my ways," says Hefty. After moving to Florida, he found Jesus Christ and his wife of now 40 years.

Hefty first lived in Treasure Island's Sunset Beach and from 1975 to 1979 he worked for the City of Gulfport as their Park Supervisor. He loved working with landscaping and designing green spaces, so in 1979 he started his own business designing and installing parks and playgrounds.

In 1992, when he was 45, he saw an advertisement for a Director of Public Works in Indian Rocks Beach. "I saw this as a big opportunity and I aspired to apply for that job," Hefty says. "But, the ad said an Engineering Degree was a prerequisite and I had none," Hefty explains. "I did not even have a college degree. My education was from the School of Experiential Learning. In other words, I had had many jobs, but no formal education."

Over 60 people applied for the job, including consultants and area engineers. Hefty still had his ponytail, a big beard and looked like a biker. "I just showed them my resume." When they asked about his work habits, he simply said, "my intent is to help the existing workers take pride in their City and complete every project to the best of their abilities. Let's just get the job done!"

They hired him in April, right before the annual Art in the Park show. His first priority was to get the city spruced up. Over the next four years, he attacked dozens of projects in Indian Rocks and helped make many improvements.

When a local resident decided to sell the land, Hefty was involved in creating and designing the city's Nature Park. "I found a grant to buy the park," he says. Hefty was also involved in the design and installation of the Beach Access Walkovers. This combined project between the City and the County installed walkovers between 1st and 23rd Avenues.

"I introduced the city and county to a new form of cement that was pervious to water. It allowed water to drain without running off. We used it on many of the beach access parking areas, explains Hefty.

Hefty was involved with the Sea Oats Planting Program in 1994. Florida Power (now Duke Energy) supplied about 500 of their employees to help in the project.

"I remember Wayne was very interested in planting trees," says R.B. Johnson, Indian Rocks Beach's Mayor. "He suggested the planting of the oak trees that surround our Little League field and today shade the bleachers.

Then they hired a new City Manager, Eric Messerve." Hefty says. "Even though I had been on the job for four years, Messerve began demanding that the head of Public Works have an Engineering Degree. Eventually, I was motivated to leave and left the city in March of 1996 after 4 years. Shortly afterward Messerve was let go. "

In 1998, Hefty became a consultant to the Pinellas County School Board and Pinellas County Utilities. Working for Pic Talley, he was asked to survey the energy usage at an area school. That led to auditing 140 Pinellas school buildings, which was difficult since they were in eleven Pinellas municipalities.

Hefty became involved in the County's Water Management. With a focus on waste management and recycling by the schools, he created an Energy Team to manage the county's water, trash and recycling programs. It was responsible for sewer, water, gas, trash, recycling, solar energy, and other systems. They documented over $12 million in savings.

Hefty worked for Pinellas County for about six years, until in 2004, he went to work for a consulting firm, Energy Systems Group. The company was doing the same things Hefty had been doing for Pinellas County, but had projects in thirteen states.

Somewhere along the way, Hefty became involved with Keep Pinellas Beautiful. The organization was formed in 1996 with Bill Sanders as its first director. Hefty was the treasurer for many years and has been an active board member for ten years.

"Wayne Hefty is one of our long standing members of the Keep Pinellas Beautiful Board of Directors. He has served as a volunteer since the early nineties when the affiliate began. His passion and dedication to our organization have helped expand our educational reach to thousands of students and adults throughout Pinellas County. He helped develop the Bright Futures Student Scholarship program, spearheaded the in-school recycling program and orchestrated the Recycle Regatta for many years. Wayne's "Can-Do" attitude and enthusiasm for Keep Pinellas Beautiful's mission continues to contribute to the success of our Keep America Beautiful Affiliate," says Pat DePlasco, Executive Director Keep Pinellas Beautiful.

Wayne, now 71 is a consultant for Recycling Services of Florida, which oversees most of the Pinellas County public schools. "I feel that the Lord brought me to each of these jobs," Wayne says with a smile."

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Organizational News...

GFWC ST. PETERSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

The St. Petersburg Woman's Club which celebrated it's 100 years of community activity in 2013, is affiliated with the General Federation Of Woman's Clubs. A not-for-profit volunteer organization committed to serving the community through hands-on projects and fund raising as well as leadership development. To find out more information about our membership for women of all ages, monthly meetings, weekly sewing group, card games or information on booking our Historical Clubhouse. For information, contact Joanne Walker 727-822-4982. www.stpetersburgwomansclub.org

ST. PETE DNA

An army of volunteers from SPDNA and the City of St. Pete met in April to undertake a massive clean up of Mirror Lake. Mayor Rick Kriseman said, "St. Petersburg is not just Beach Drive. It is gems like Williams Park and Mirror Lake that need a little cleaning up from time to time." Gina Driscoll coordinated this event as Event Chair. Local groups from churches, businesses and other neighborhoods also participated

The SPDNA represents residents downtown from 5th Ave. N to 5th Ave. S and includes the Edge District. The association aims to build a stronger community by bringing neighbors together and serving as a collective voice for downtown issues.

General meetings are held each quarter with a special guest speaker, and social events are scheduled throughout the year. The next general meetings are May 18th and July 14th at 7pm at the Museum of Fine Arts. Members and non-members are welcome at all meetings. Membership is $15/year for individuals or $20 per household. Associate memberships for those who do not reside downtown are $20/yr. Visit stpetedna.org for more information.

ST. PETERSBURG SAIL & POWER SQUADRON

They meet monthly at the Sailing Center, located at 250 2nd Avenue SE. In addition, they sponsor local seminars and provide courses several times a month including:

Anchoring May 25, 7pm - Can you anchor your boat, correctly? This two-hour class explains how to select the proper anchor, rode and components, and their use depending on the sea and bottom conditions. It covers the tables used to determine the sizing of your anchor to your boat. You will receive the USPS's Anchoring Quick Guide. The cost is $35 per family and is limited to 20.

Rules of the Road June 15, 7pm - This seminar provides an explanation of the 37 Rules of the Road relating to recreational boat operation. This is a starting point for those preparing to take USCG License Examination. You will receive a copy of the booklet, One Minute Guide to the Nautical Rules of the Road. Costs is $40 per family.

Registration for all seminars is required at www.Boating-StPete.org. Contact Jeff Eckhart to join 424-9800 or email him at JeffEckhart41@Gmail.com

GFWC JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

This non-profit volunteer organization is for young women over 18. They meet on the first Tuesday of each month (except June and July) at 7pm. The next meetings are April 5 and May 2. Visit SPJWC.org or call Audra Ames 415-6397 to get involved.

EFFECTIVE AND UNDER-USED TOOL TO HELP SELL YOUR HOME: The Preemptive Inspection

by Libby & Ron Salamone, Broker Associates RE/MAX Metro

Finding the right buyer and signing a contract are only intermediary steps on the path to selling your home. After the contract is signed, the buyers will have a period of time, typically two weeks, to conduct inspections in order to make sure that the house doesn't have defects that aren't immediately obvious.

Buyers will undoubtedly conduct a general home inspection and a pest inspection at the very least, but also likely are roof, electrical, heating and cooling, seawall, and other inspections. These inspections almost always turn up issues that require attention, and if the results of these inspections are surprising, they can sometimes derail the deal completely.

The solution is simple, if often overlooked: Before the house goes on the market, along with the landscaper, the painter, and the carpet cleaner, the seller can hire a professional home inspector to conduct a thorough inspection. This way, the seller has the opportunity to preemptively discover and repair any unknown issues.

During the closing process, the buyers are going to have a lot on their plates. If we can give them the extra boost of a clean and uneventful inspection period, they are going to be much more likely to stick with the transaction through to the very end.

Even before the perfect buyer comes along, the preemptive inspection can be a useful sales tool. After all the items on the original inspection are resolved, the seller can order a re-inspection, which will now generate a clean report. This report can be made available to prospective buyers, enhancing the attractiveness of the house. If they are considering your house and another uninspected house at the same time, they just might go for yours if you have the clean inspection report already available, since the other house may have issues yet to be discovered.

The other advantage of this report is that it helps eliminate renegotiation of the purchase price. If you wait for the buyer to conduct the inspection while the house is already under contract, the inspection may turn up issues of which the seller was not aware. In order to deal with the financial impact of these issues, the buyer will almost always ask to lower the purchase price. Often these renegotiations fail, since neither party was prepared for the additional expense beforehand, and the deal falls apart. If there are no such issues because the Seller took care of them in advance, we can avoid this situation completely.

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ED MONTANARI, OUR NEWEST COUNCILMAN

Ed Montanari is one of the newest members of the St. Petersburg City Council. He was sworn in on January 2nd. He represents District 3 which includes the neighborhoods of Allendale, Edgemoor, Fossil Park, Northeast Park Shores, Snell Isle, Shore Acres, Harbor Isle, Tanglewood, and Venetian Isles.

Montanari moved to St. Petersburg 40 years ago, and is a graduate of Northeast High and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is an Air Force veteran has over 1400 hours in all models of the F-16 fighter aircraft. After serving on active duty, Ed joined American Airlines and is a Boeing 777 pilot.

Montanari began his public service in 2004 as Chair of a Task Force that was formed after a city-wide referendum about the future of Albert Whitted Airport. After a year-long study, Task Force recommendations began to be implemented. They included a new airport terminal and restaurant, St. Petersburg's newest waterfront park - Albert Whitted Park, and a complex property line adjustment that allowed the new Salvador Dali Museum to be built in its current location. Other recommendations for airport improvements included the construction of a new control tower, hangar construction and repairs, and that the airport is compatible with the St. Petersburg Grand Prix.

Following the airport task force, Montanari served on other community projects including the Pier Task Force as Chairman, a member of the Planning and Preservation Commission for St. Petersburg, the Pinellas County Economic Development Council, the Louise Graham/R'Club Board, the Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Council and others.

Montanari's vision for St. Petersburg falls into two main areas: The first is to protect and preserve our quality of life. Public safety is his first priority, along with neighborhoods, our park system, and the implementation of the downtown waterfront master plan. The second area is to make our city a more attractive place to do business. He is focused on retaining existing businesses and working with the Chamber of Commerce to form an organization to actively recruit business to our city. In order to attract new businesses, issues like housing, schools, and transportation need to be addressed.

Within his City Council district, Ed is focused on reducing crime, building a new recreation center in Shore Acres, a new fire station in Fossil Park, general improvements to parks, storm water system enhancements, and zoning issues.

Ed attends Calvary Chapel St. Petersburg and has two grown children, Jackie and Matthew.

Organizational News...

HISTORIC OLD NORTHEAST. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSN.

Their meetings are quarterly on the third Monday of the month (except for holidays). The next quarterly meeting is June 20th. They meet at the West Minster Presbyterian Church, 126 11th Avenue NE, 7pm.

They are sponsoring a Children's Parade on July 4th in Coffee Pot Park beginning a 10am.

Visit honna.org or call 269-5521. Peter Motzenbecker, President, can be reached at President@HONNA.org.

ST. PETERSBURG PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Their guided walking tours offer guests a leisurely stroll with an opportunity to see the jewels of St. Pete's past while learning about the founding of St. Petersburg and its growth as a tourist town. Tours are offered each Saturday morning through April, starting at 10 am, with a different tour offered each Saturday of the month. Note, lunchtime tours start at noon

Twilight on the Town Summer Evening Walking Tour lasts approximately one hour and ends at a fun spot where you can grab something to eat, drink and visit.

May 25: Downtown North (7pm)
June 15: Historic Kenwood (6:30pm)
June 29: Downtown (7pm)

Movies in the Park continue through the end of the month. The free movies start with live music at 7pm followed by the movie at dusk. The final two movies will be

May 19: Searching for Sugarman
May 26: Labyrinth (A tribute to David Bowie)

For information, visit www.StPetePreservation.org or contact Peter Belmont, Chairman, at 463-4612. Follow them on FaceBook by searching for Saint Petersburg Preservation.

SNELL ISLE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

They meet at the Women's Club, 40 Snell Isle Blvd NE. For more information, contact Scott Youngblood at ScottYoungblood 1@Hotmail.com.

ROTARY CLUB OF ST. PETERSBURG

They have changed their meeting location to the St. Pete Yacht Club at 11 Central Avenue, every Friday at noon. For information, call 822-3277 or visit www.SPRotary.org.

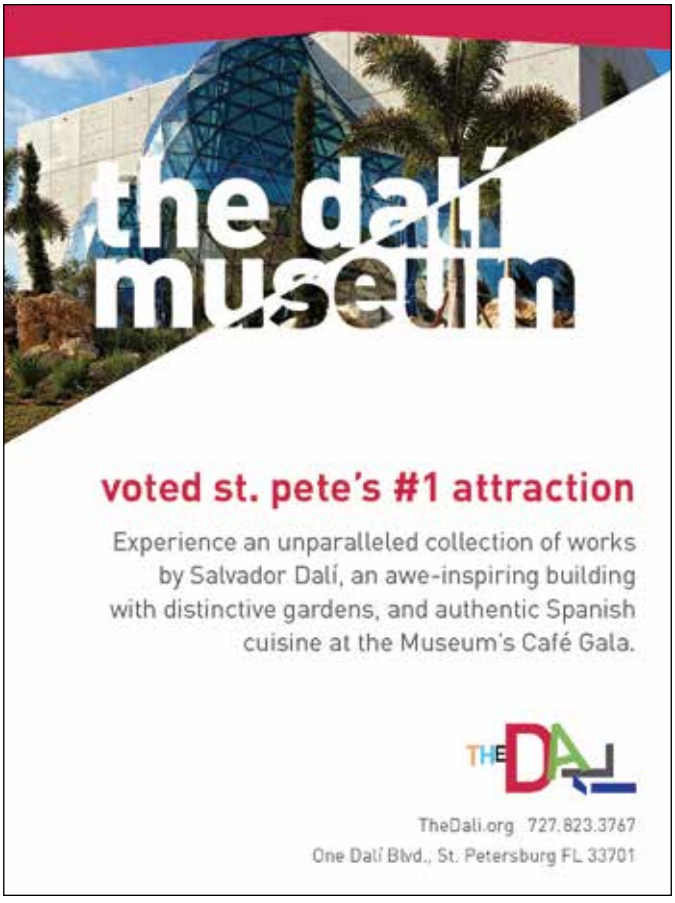
NORTHEAST LITTLE LEAGUE

Spring Ball is wrapping up. The Championship games are on Saturday, May 21st, then they begin their All Star Tournaments. Registration for Fall Ball will start soon thereafter.

Dan Anderson is once again serving as President. Reach him at PRESIDENT@NortheastLL.com. Get more information at www.NortheastLL.com.

FRIENDS OF THE SUNSHINE CENTER

The Kids and Kubs are part of the Sunshine Center and play softball at 10am at North Shore Field on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. They are also volunteers at the Center and for the last two years, have volunteered to serve their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner meals at the Center. They also make an annual donation to the meals program. They normally meet on the second Saturday of each month except during the summer. For information call Carol Ann Payne at 821-2323.



Organizational News...

DOWNTOWN RESIDENTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

This 501C (4) is an association of associations that represents the interests of the residents of downtown St. Pete with the goal of making St. Petersburg the most livable city in the world.

Membership is open to all downtown residential community associations and is expanding. All community associations located in the area to the east of 10th Street and from 14th Avenue North to 14th Avenue South are eligible to be members of DCRA. Current members include: Bayfront Towers, The Cloisters, The Florencia, Harbor Hill, Signature Place, Vinoy Place and McNulty Lofts. For information, contact Marion Lee, President, at 894-9491 or visit www.StPete-DRCA.org.

FRIENDS OF THE MIRROR LAKE LIBRARY

They meet the first Wednesday of the month at 6pm; the next meetings are June 1 and July 6. Call President, Wayne Finley at 813-767-5503 or email MWayneFinley@Yahoo.com.

TOASTMASTERS

Become an experienced hands-on speaker and leader; it's not just a speech class, it's a journey and teaches confidence through practice, practice and more practice. Two groups are available at different times:

City Power Toastmasters meet at St. Petersburg Municipal Services Bldg., One 4th St. N., room 600, from noon to 1pm Wednesdays. Visit for free and see what it's all about. Membership is only a $20 initial fee and $43 for 6 months. Call Alexis Shuder 727-893-7918.

Downtown St. Pete Toastmasters meets Thursday evening at 6:15pm at St. Pete College, Room DC 125 at 244 2nd Avenue North. Call Cynthia Jenkins at 742-6840.

SECOND TIME AROUNDERS

They received a generous grant from Visit St. Pete Clearwater for their efforts in promoting our area as a vacation destination when they perform in Seattle's Sea Fair Festival parade in July. Visit St. Pete Clearwater will be entering a float in that parade (details are still being finalized) and some of the band's "tag alongs" will assist them in manning the float. The band will be marching in the parade with Visit St. Pete Clearwater tuba covers, and the hope is the float and the band will be together.

The Band has been pleasing audiences for over 34 years. Did you play an instrument in high school or college? Then this is the band for you. They are always looking for new members. Call 421-2344 or visit SecondTimeArounders.com

ALBERT WHITTED AIRPORT PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Their monthly Pancake Breakfasts at Albert Whitted in the Hangar Restaurant on the first Saturday of the month includes pancakes, eggs, meat, home fries, grits, orange juice and coffee. People of all ages are invited. Breakfast is from 8 until 11 am. Next breakfasts are June 4 and July 2.

The next Young Eagles Day is June 11, 10am to 1pm. Children ages 8-17 have an opportunity to learn about aviation and experience a free airplane or helicopter flight.

For information, visit www.Awaps.org or call Terri Griner at 822-1532.

TIKKA MASALA

with Savory Spice

Ingredients

4 Tbsp. Tikka Masala
3 1/2 Tbsp. tomato powder
1 1/2 Tsp. honey powder
1 lb. boneless chicken, cubed
12 oz. bag frozen vegetables
1/2 cup half and half
6 Tbsp. olive oil, divided
1 1/4 C. water, divided
1 Tbsp. lemon juice
1/2 C. plain yogurt
1 1/2 Tsp. sea salt
Cilantro for garnish

Notes

Following an Alton Brown tip, we used a frozen Asian vegetable medley that can be microwaved in the unopened bag. Cooked a little less than halfway, the vegetables stay crisp and it cuts down the final prep time. Rather than converting tomato and honey powders into a sauce, you can substitute 1 1/2 tsp. honey and 8 oz. prepared tomato sauce. We also have a vegan version of this dish.

Directions

Mix Tikka Masala, 4 Tbsp. oil and 4 Tbsp. water into a smooth paste, and set aside. Mix tomato powder and honey powder with 1 cup (8 oz.) water to make a smooth sauce, and set aside. In a large skillet, heat 2 Tbsp. oil over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook until lightly browned. Meanwhile, cook vegetables in microwave for 2 to 2½ min. Add vegetables to chicken and stir in tikka paste. Cook for 2 to 3 min., stirring occasionally. Stir in lemon juice, sea salt and tomato sauce mixture, and cook for 3 to 4 more min. Reduce heat to a simmer, combine yogurt and half and half in a small bowl, then thoroughly stir in yogurt mixture. Cover and simmer for 5 to 8 min., stirring occasionally.

Serving Suggestions - Over rice with chopped cilantro and pita, tortilla or naan bread.

Yields 4 servings

This recipe is brought to you by Paul W. Bailey, owner of Savory Spice at 400 Beach Drive NE #173, in downtown St. Petersburg. Call him at 727-290-9893 if you would like the vegan version of this recipe.

ENCORE 16

Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony presents Encore 16, with two of the world's top a cappella choruses & quartets. 2015 International Sweet Adeline Finalists "Windsor" and 2015 International Medalist Main Street will be performing along with Tampa Bay Heralds of Harmony and the Toast of Tampa Show Chorus under the direction of Tona De Rosa.

Tickets are now available for this unparalleled cast of talent on stage together for the first time!

Shows sell out — order early! Show times are 8pm, Friday, June 10 at the Palladium at St. Pete College and 3pm & 7pm, Saturday, June 11, at the USF School of Music Concert Hall, Tampa. Order Palladium tickets at Mypalladium.org or call 727-822-3590. USF tickets are available from HeraldsOfHarmony.org or calling 813-994-8787. Ticket prices range from $25 to $55.

Preferred tickets are limited and include an exclusive pre-show one hour prior to scheduled performance with the Director, guest talent and staff members.

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BROKER PARTICIPATION WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED. ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING REPRESENTATIONS OF THE SELLER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS, MAKE REFERENCE TO THIS ADVERTISEMENT AND TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A SELLER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE. This project has been filed in the state of Florida and no other state. This is not an offer to sell or solicitation of offers to buy the condominium units in states where such offer or solicitation cannot be made. Prices and availability are subject to change at any time without notice.